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Attorney Docket No. 56688 (70904)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: H. Tadano, et al.

EXAMINER: Pyo, Kevin K.

SERIAL NO.: 09/990,797

GROUP: 2878

FILED: November 14, 2001

CONFIRMATION: 3090

FOR: FOCAL POINT DISLOCATION DETECTING METHOD AND OPTICAL  
PICKUP APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 17, 2003.

By: Helen Murray Tarbi  
Helen Murray Tarbi

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

The following is in response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2003, in the above referenced application.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified one-(1) month period. Applicants, however, conditionally petition for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that the need for such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked. As provided below charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 for any required fee.

RECEIVED  
DEC 23 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Applicant: H. Tadano, et al.  
U.S.S.N.: 09/990,797  
**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
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Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.